

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending. The drawing has been amended. No new matter is presented.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the center Z. Fig. 1 has been amended to correct this deficiency. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eitzenberger (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,232) in view of Elestedt (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,046). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “gateway computers which mediate a radio link between one of the vehicles and route elements in the route network at least at locations with a high density of route elements.” Accordingly, there need only be one radio transmission channel between the mobile objects and the fixed position objects. Neither Eitzenberger nor Elestedt teaches or suggests this feature.

Elestedt teaches a two-channel cell system. Elestedt discloses that to be able to reach all units in the complete line network at the same time to obtain acceptable response times, the line network may be divided into communication cells 30 (see Fig. 3 and col. 9, lines 5-8). Full coverage is obtained by a two-channel system. The gateway computers of claim 1 enable a one radio-transmission channel system between mobile objects and fixed positions objects. Elestedt teaches no gateway computer.

Eitzenberger teaches a central computer which the Examiner appears to consider as corresponding to the claimed gateway computer. Eitzenberger discloses a central computer (1) installed for example in an automobile or truck, with which computer a plurality of data networking applications can be performed, namely the applications of fleet management, route planning, remote diagnosis, antitheft protection, and data communications such as the sending of electronic mail and access to databases (col. 4, lines 27-33). The central computer of Eitzenberger does not correspond to the claimed gateway computer. At best, the central computer of Eitzenberger could initiate data

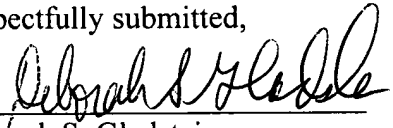
communications, such as by sending electronic mail. This computer does not provide a gateway however, and could not "mediate a radio link between one of the vehicles and route elements in the route network." Furthermore, Eitzenberger does not teach a multiplex channel for forming a radio link between one of the vehicles and a respective gateway computer. The central computer of Eitzenberg would form a direct radio link with whatever it was trying to connect with and there would be no need for a multiplex channel for forming a radio link.

Accordingly, neither of the cited references teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, the features of claim 1. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122004700.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

REPLACEMENT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement sheet